



LOGOS

The Newsletter for St. John's Episcopal Church, Arlington

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it" John 1:5

December 2015

Celebrate Christmas at St. John's



December 13—Children's Christmas pageant during the 10 a.m. service.

December 13—Christmas cookie exchange after the 10 a.m. service
(RSVP to Lynn Robinson at 703-998-6481 or mezzsop22204@yahoo.com).

Christmas Eve—5 p.m., Family Eucharist with special music and a children's message.

Christmas Eve—11 p.m., Holy Eucharist with Carols.

Christmas Day—10 a.m., Holy Eucharist with Carols.

December 27—10 a.m., Lessons and Carols, where the Christmas story is told in a series of readings and carols.

From the Rector: Getting Undressed

We have had a lot of great weather this fall. The mornings are chilly, but the afternoons are sunny and warm. I wear my winter coat in the morning and take it off when I get to work. Sometimes I'll take my sweater off as well. It feels great to remove these layers and go out at the end of the day feeling lighter and happier with the sun on my back.

As Christians, we are supposed to get undressed too. Brother Geoffrey Tristram of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) reminds us that "it is hard for God to re-clothe us in Christ when we are already dressed." God is challenging us, he says, to "take off some garment which weights [us] down, ...leave it at the altar and return to [our lives] lighter."

There are some clothes we can take off to help us be ready for Christ to re-clothe us in garments that are appropriate for followers of Jesus. One of the heaviest coats we wear is fear. We are afraid of many things—change, loss, being out of control, overwhelming projects, people, and all manner of other things. Fear separates us from God if we let it because we feel paralyzed and don't take any action to repair the problem. Instead we need to have courage—courage that God can give us. Brother Luke Ditewig (SSJE) says that "We can't get courage by running, hiding or gritting our teeth." Rather it is "acting, leaning into the situation as [we] are." One of the things I do when confronted with a fear that paralyzes me is to imagine putting that fear into a hot air balloon, cutting the ropes that hold it to me, and letting the balloon sail off until it is out of sight.

We can take off our suit of busyness. The Christmas season is a really busy season. Shopping, decorating, sending cards, and seeing friends are all added to our normal round of tasks, which was already a long list

anyway. Perhaps there are some things we don't have to do that we can ask God to help us let go of. Or perhaps there are ways we can be more efficient with our time. Either way, it is hard for Christ to reach us to re-clothe us in the hope of the season while we are busy running errands. We all need some down time to allow ourselves to be dressed.

Maybe there are some relationships we need to take off. You know the ones—people who are constant complainers or bullies or nags do us no good by making us feel like the world is awful and we are not good enough. (If these folks are family, we need to limit our exposure.) God wants to clothe us with healthy relationships, so that we may grow together in love and interdependence.

We can take things off our plates. We don't need everything we have, and other people can use them. Our houses and our brains can become cluttered with all the things we have, both literally and figuratively. Taking off things is another way to let Jesus re-clothe us in his love and compassion.

Jesus wants to clothe us with flexibility, so we can be ready to follow where he leads us. Taking off our ruts is a good way to be ready for this. We all have routines. Some of them are helpful and some not. Some of us get very uncomfortable when we get out of our routines because they have become so familiar to us. Maybe there is something good we want to fit into our day and can't seem to manage it because of a rut we are in. It's time to shake ourselves up a little bit, to do something different for a change, to try something new.

Sometimes we need to take off old ideas and be open to new ones. The ones we have may be perfectly fine, but sometimes we need to expand our minds, to grow, to reach out, to think about the new things God wants to put in our lives.

Getting undressed makes us feel lighter, and being less heavy helps us stay closer to the Lord, who wants to clothe us in his love. This

Christmas season, may you be willing and able to receive the love that comes to us in the manger and wants to save us for himself.

Ann †

Sunday Seminar Focuses on Advent

Beginning November 29, the adult Sunday Seminar will focus on Advent. A new study, “Under Wraps,” will examine four themes in the Hebrew Scriptures that describe the layers of God’s character—expectant, dangerous, fearful, and jealous—and then spotlight how Jesus came to show the world what God is really like. In January, the seminar will wrap up the study on “If You Want to Walk on Water, You Have to Get Out of the Boat” and start a new study, “The God We Can Know,” about Jesus’s “I am” sayings. The study will include learning prayer techniques. Please join the seminar at 9 a.m. in the parlor for these thought-provoking sessions.

St. John’s Monthly Financial Statement

October income:	\$8,148
Pledge + Plate:	\$7,993
Year-to-date income:	\$116,847
October expense:	\$14,166
Year-to-date expense:	\$128,857

St. John’s Staff and Leadership

Staff

Rector: The Rev. Ann B. Barker
Minister of Family Programs: Whitney Coleman
Minister of Music: Lynn Robinson
Organist: Carol Dunlap
Parish Administrator: Virginia Pearson
Sexton: Juan Figueroa

Parish Leaders

Bill Thomson, Treasurer
John Restall, Pledge Clerk
Lenore Schmidt, Chair, Finance Committee
Eileen Tallent, Chair, Altar Guild

Vestry

Bill Schenck, Senior Warden
Sandy Winger, Junior Warden
Jeff Aitken

Paul Stenger
Bill Thomson
Linda Trochim



St. John's celebrated Commitment Sunday on November 1, the culmination of its 2015 stewardship campaign.

It Takes a (Thanksgiving Crafts) Village

Children from both St. John's and surrounding neighborhoods were busy getting crafty on November 15, as the family programs ministry hosted a Thanksgiving Crafts Village Day. Seven participants enjoyed lunch and the creation of everything from pine cone turkeys to holiday wreaths to paper lanterns. The

resulting crafts were displayed at the Thanksgiving luncheon following the 10 a.m. service on November 22.

"Special thanks to all volunteers and parents who helped to make this event a success!," said Family Programs Minister Whitney Coleman.



St. John's Mission Statement

We welcome everyone including believers, seekers and doubters to share God's love and acceptance in a community of worship and service.

St. John's Vision Statement

St. John's is dedicated to nurturing disciples for Jesus by:

- Offering faith-deepening worship, education, outreach and pastoral care;
- Attracting and welcoming newcomers; and
- Sharing God's love with our community and the world around us.

Words on Hymns: *Sleepers, Wake*

Similar to the Advent hymn *O Come, O Come, Emanuel*, an arrangement of the hymn *Wachet Auf (Sleepers, Wake)* can be found in almost every collection of Advent music. Numbers 61 and 62 in our hymnal, the piece is commonly performed in churches on the first Sunday in Advent. I will be playing three different arrangements that day: by German composer J.S. Bach (1680–1750) for the prelude, French composer Marcel Dupré (1886–1971) during Communion, and contemporary American composer Gilbert M. Martin (1941–) for the postlude.

In the German Lutheran context during Bach's time, the cantata was part of the Sunday church service, usually preceding the sermon. It was based on the chorale (or hymn), which in turn was based on the Bible reading assigned for that week's service. It was essentially a sermon in musical form. Bach used techniques of Italian opera, such as recitative and aria, as well as choruses in his cantatas, which were around 20 to 30 minutes in length. Between 1723 and 1729, Bach composed four complete cantata cycles. He also composed a fifth cycle in the 1730s and 1740s. Each cycle consisted of 58 cantatas for the year. He composed chorale cantata No. 140, *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, in Leipzig for the 27th Sunday after Trinity and first performed it on November 25, 1731. It is based on the 1599 hymn by Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608), a German Lutheran pastor.

Movement 4 of the cantata is the basis for the first of Bach's Schübler Chorales. (The six Schübler Chorales collect some of the few compositions published during Bach's lifetime.) The text of the hymn is taken from the parable of the 10 virgins found in the gospel of Matthew and also contains references to Revelation and Corinthians. The melody was

written by Hans Sachs (1494–1576), a German poet and shoemaker.

Born in Rouen into a musical family, Marcel Dupré was a child prodigy. In 1926, he was appointed professor of organ performance and improvisation at the Paris Conservatoire, a position he held until 1954. Dupré became famous for performing more than 2,000 organ recitals throughout Australia, the United States, Canada, and Europe, including a recital series of 10 concerts of the complete works of Bach in 1920 (Paris Conservatoire) and 1921 (Palais du Trocadéro), both performed entirely from memory. As a composer, he produced a wide-ranging oeuvre of 65 opus numbers and also taught two generations of well-known organists. Aside from a few fine works for aspiring organists (such as the *79 Chorales* op. 28), most of Dupré's music for the organ ranges from moderately to extremely difficult, and some of it makes almost impossible technical demands on the performer. I stick to the *79 Chorales*, which are indeed little gems.

Gilbert M. Martin's music and lyrics are well-established with America's leading publishing houses. For more than 40 years, organists, pianists, and choral ensembles in both schools and churches have performed and enjoyed his many and varied original compositions and arrangements. A native of Southbridge, Massachusetts, Martin studied organ at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, where he was honored as a distinguished composer and alumnus. Now living in Ohio, he often teaches and conducts numerous musical ensembles throughout the country and remains an active composer in the choral, piano, and organ genres.

Carol Dunlap

Parish News

Upcoming Events:

➤ Join the St. John's Book Club on **Tuesday, December 1, at 7:30 p.m.** as they discuss *H is for Hawk* by Helen MacDonal. The **January 5** selection is *The Astronaut Wives Club* by Lily Koppel.

Thank you to:

- Bill Pritchard for his work with the Red Cross after the floods in Charleston, SC.
- Bill Schenck for leading a Sunday Seminar on the pope's encyclical on climate change.
- Bill Pritchard for leading a Sunday Seminar on papal communications.
- Peter Olivere, for his work as Commitment Campaign chair.
- Faye Pritchard, Barbara Olivere, and Bill Pritchard for helping with the Thanksgiving crafts event organized by the family programs ministry.
- Whitney Coleman for her hard work to publicize and run the Thanksgiving crafts event.
- Sandy Winger, Charlotte Bovender, Debbie Carter, and Lisa Pope for coordinating and executing our Thanksgiving potluck and to everyone who brought food and/or helped with set up and clean up.

We celebrate with all who have birthdays in December:

Rev. Catherine Campbell, Eileen Flynn, Madeline Harbin, Lori Held, Galen Henderson, Barbara Hill, Del Hunt, Vernon Martin, Barbara Olivere, Angie Rollet, Angela Swarr, Camron Tallent, and Laura Wallace.

We celebrate with those observing anniversaries in December:

Carol and Dave Dunlap; Klaus and Lori Held; Penny and Don Hess; Cooper and Mary Mackin.

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LOGOS is published monthly except for August, at the beginning of the month.

Lisa Pope, LOGOS Editor

Articles for LOGOS may be emailed to logos@stjohnsarlingtonva.org (preferred) or left at the church office.

Material for the January issue should be submitted by December 14. Article ideas for future issues are also welcome.